



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Interoperability Montana Finance Committee

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Finance Committee met in Helena on Mon., Oct. 6. Sheriff John Walsh, IM Finance Chair, began the meeting with a review of action items from the previous meeting. Members reviewed a master schedule of projects and funding sources.

Irene Bushnell, AZ, reported on a recent meeting with legislative auditors. They were pleased with the new accounting software because it establishes proper internal controls. Invoices to individual counties for their 12.5% of the COPS subscriber units have been sent. When payments are made, she will notify Motorola so local radio shops can release the radios. Members also discussed COPS grant funding for additional subscriber units. The IM is now making bill payments after receiving a drawdown from the state, and the committee looked at a spreadsheet that will track expenditures for the state legislative appropriation money.

A fleetmapping work session is scheduled the week of Nov. 17, and warranty funds may be available to fund getting the data loaded into the Master Zone Controller. The IMTC Executive Committee will be addressing Northern Tier system manager proposals. Funding was approved for cross connects and termination at the Lewis and Clark Law Enforcement Center to complete the integration of the parallel path.

Members recommended that the IMTC evaluate upgrade options for the hop from High Flat to Timberline to get it connected this fall. Members also learned that the RFP for Project Management has been canceled through mutual agreement and a transition contract is being developed.

Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported that the NEPA RFP has been released. The committee also reviewed suggested changes to Policy 2.0 on Fiscal and Finance Responsibilities. A definition for the Executive Director will be added as well as limits for spending authorities: a single signature for amounts up to \$5,000 and two signatures for amounts greater than \$5000.01.

Dan McGowan, DES, reported that the Dept. of Homeland Security FY05 extension request was granted for a 6-month extension rather than the 9-month extension as requested. No other entities in the nation were given an extension past six months. Another extension could be requested in March, if needed.

The next regular IM Finance Committee meeting is set for Wed., Nov. 5 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. A special work session to address the rest of the agenda items will be scheduled later in the month.

IM Governance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Governance Committee met in Helena on Monday, Oct. 6. Chair Bill Fleiner asked Cindy Mullaney to review the IM bylaws and present an update on implementation of last revisions at the next IM Governance meeting. Bob Murdo

presented a Legal Counsel Report and briefly discussed a site lease agreement, the Executive Director Contract, and an office space lease agreement.

George Gupton, WICC Project Director, presented the Staffing sub-committee report and indicated that work is beginning on the System Administrator position description. George was complimented for all his hard work on the IM booth at the recent Montana Association of Counties (MACo) conference.

Meetings are continuing to clarify items related to the BNSF Railway contract and to perform long-range planning. The committee approved a request to transfer three sites in Flathead County from the Dept. of Administration to the county after the first of the year.

Scott Bradford gave a report on the Contract Management sub-committee and Kerry O'Connell brought the group up to date on Training sub-committee plans for a fleetmapping train-the-trainer work session the week of Nov. 17 in Kalispell.

Bill Fleiner brought the group up to date on the status of several Memoranda of Understanding and distributed a handout on PSSB services for a 30-day comment period. Copies of the Site User Agreement also were distributed for a 30-day review. The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the draft Sustainability Plan, which is expected to be finalized by Dec.

Lt. Col. Jeff Fisher, National Guard, reviewed a proposal to fund project management implementation for last mile hops at 10 sites for high-speed internet connections between operational locations, and the committee approved presenting the proposal to the IM Project Directors.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 5, which is a Wednesday, rather than a Monday.

IM Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on Tues., Oct. 7. First Vice Chair Joe Brenneman reported on IMPD Executive Committee Decision Making, and Dave Hinds, Malmstrom Air Force Base, provided an update on U.S. Air Force activities. Standing Committee reports were given.

The board approved the Executive Director employment contract: Kevin Bruski's first day on the IM Project will be Nov. 3. Time was spent discussing the draft Sustainability Plan. Members were asked to provide comments to Bill Fleiner over the next 30 days. Bob McWilliams, IM Technical Committee (IMTC) provided an update on IM Technical Committee activities. Roger Smith provided up-to-date information on the microwave network design, and Scott Bradford updated the group on frequency issues. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, gave the monthly status report, and indicated that Harris-Stratex is working to have the Northern Tier microwave system up and running by Oct. 17.



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The board approved funding to complete the integration of the Lewis and Clark parallel path. A Project Change Request for an extension to the Northrop Grumman also was funded.

The board reviewed action items from its prior meeting and updates were given. Kerry O'Connell asked for additional volunteers to assist with the training sub-committee. Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported on NEPA contract issues and the RFP.

The next IMPD meeting is Thurs., Nov 6 at the State Capitol in Helena. Please note that the meeting is on a Thursday rather than the traditional Tuesday.

Central Montana Consortium

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (CMICC) held a board meeting on Wed., Oct. 8 in Great Falls. Project Director Cheri Kilby started the meeting with an update by Dorothy Gremaux regarding advances and new developments made by the Interoperability Montana Technical Committee (IMTC).

Cheri presented an update from the recently completed Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) meeting. Of significance to the group was the draft IM Sustainability Plan, the Employment Agreement for the Executive Director of IM, and the work that has been accomplished by the Training sub-committee and its first scheduled "train the trainer" session on Nov. 17 for fleetmapping.

Dave Hinds, Malmstrom Air Force Base, gave the group a briefing on the latest developments of the Air Force-IM partnership. Work is proceeding at all levels with alternate plans in place to provide connectivity between sites in the Central Consortium. Dave developed a work plan on site requirements based on new guidance from Headquarters SPACECOM.

Members presented details of consortium sites with primary and alternate recommendations and completion dates highlighted. Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, updated the group on microwave connectivity.

The next meeting will be on Wed., Nov. 12 at 10:00 am at the Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW, in Great Falls. The December meeting will be on the 3rd at the same time and location.

South Central Consortium Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC) met in White Sulphur Springs on Wed., Oct. 8. Board Chair Peggy Glass began the meeting with county status update reports. She said construction has begun on the Myers Flat site. Sheriff Rick Seidlitz indicated that Meagher County is interested in taking ownership of the Grassy site. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, provided the history of the

acquisition of old Corbin communications sites. Discussion also took place about the COPS subscriber unit distribution. Members discussed frequencies issues.

Steve Digiovanna, Madison County, reported that the VC Pass site is in the NEPA process. Mark described the NEPA process and plans for the southwest ring. Ben Hess, Gallatin County, reported on progress on the county's new dispatch center. Project Director Kerry O'Connell reported for Sweet Grass County, and indicated that she is still experiencing delays on getting an easement signed. She also is working on getting the Big Timber Airport added to the five-year site plan. In addition, she recently looked at an available concrete shelter at Gallatin County and received an estimate for transporting it.

Kerry reported on recent decisions and activities from the IM Governance and IM Project Directors meetings. Members discussed the draft sustainability plan. She also brought the group up to date on the fleetmapping work session planned for the week of Nov. 17 in Kalispell.

The next SCMIC meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Wed., Nov. 12 at the Emergency Operations Center, 219 East Tamarack, in Bozeman.

Upcoming Meetings

Oct. 16

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

Oct. 21

IM Technical Committee – Five-Year Planning Meeting

Billings • 8:30 am • Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullooney Lane

Oct. 21

Frequency Sub-Committee meeting

Billings • 1:00 pm • Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullooney Lane

Oct. 22-23

Montana APCO Conference

Billings • Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Mullooney Lane

More information at: <http://www.mtapco.org>

Oct. 27

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)

Helena • 9:00 am-3:00 pm

State Capitol, Room 172

Nov. 5 (Wed.)

IM Finance Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - Noon

Anderson Zurmuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Nov. 5 (Wed.)

IM Governance Committee

Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Nov. 6 (Thurs.)

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

State Capitol, Room 152